

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Last Sunday after Epiphany, March 2, 2025

10 AM Service of
Holy Communion

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.



Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

Worship at Home and Away

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, www.stpaulsnewarkde.org and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder.

Large print worship folders and hearing assist devices are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.

Two Praygrounds are available for young children – one in the rear of the sanctuary and one in the narthex.

✠ GATHERING ✠

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.
We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

PRELUDE

"Calming Peace"
Handbell Ensemble

arr. Moglebust

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

DIALOG AND INVOCATION

God revealed to the disciples the everlasting glory of Jesus Christ.

**Grant us, who have not seen and yet believe,
the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

May we boldly live the gospel
and shine with transforming glory,
as people changed and changing
through the redeeming presence of our Savior.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

ELW 315 (harmony)



- 1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
- 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
- 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
- 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
- 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar-ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor-rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes-sen-gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re-demp-tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:29-35

Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone

A reading from Exodus:

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with the LORD, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the LORD.

God has been revealed to us in the word.

Let us wait here and dwell in it.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 99

Antiphon: Ps. 99:9

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill.

¹ The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

² The LORD, great in Zion,
is high above all peoples.

³ Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;
God is the Holy One.

⁴ O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. **R**

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill.

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down
before God's footstool; God is the Holy One.

⁶ Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among
those who call upon your name, O LORD,
they called upon you, and you answered them,

⁷ you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.

⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill;
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2

With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed

A reading from Second Corinthians:

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of

the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

God has been revealed to us in the word.

Let us wait here and dwell in it.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 6

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw the glory of Jesus and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as the men were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" – not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning's message.
Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.*

Please stand, as you are able.





1 Je - sus took Pet - er, James, and John
 2 "This is my Son!" said a voice from the cloud.
 3 We will be changed like Je - sus our Lord,



up to the moun - tain to be a - lone.
 "Lis - ten to him and do what he says!"
 and live with him in heav - en a - bove.



While they were watch - ing Je - sus was changed;
 Soon as it came that vis - ion was gone,
 But while we live on this earth - ly home,



and they saw Mo - ses face to face.
 and they saw Je - sus stand - ing a - lone.
 our work as ser - vants nev - er is done.

Refrain



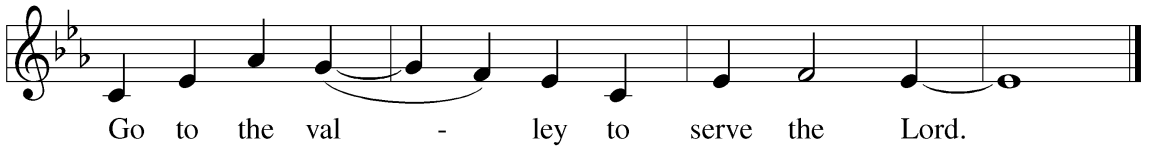
Come to the moun - tain to see the light.



Come to the moun - tain to hear God's word.



Go to the val - ley, it is your home.



Text: Scott Tunseth

Music: MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY, Kathleen Donlan Tunseth

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PROFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts, especially Gretchen, Kylee, Trudy, Jameson, Claude, Ricardo, Karen, Kathy, Dot, Mike, Cheryl, Deborah, Bob, Eric, Silas, Jane, Judy, Nancy, Hugh, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*(brief silence)*. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of our past, present, and future, lead us and our partners in ministry at Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin and Lutheran Volunteer Corps, into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people, especially John Wesley and Charles Wesley, renewers of the church, as well as Bill, Loretta, Betty, Joan, Julia, Sean, and Dan. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace
in word and gesture, saying, **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

***At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad** (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

✝ MEAL ✝

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

OFFERTORY

"Go Up to the Mountain of God"

Michael Helman

Sanctuary Choir with
Cheryl Johnson, flute

Please stand, as you are able.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: God of grace,
**your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.


By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

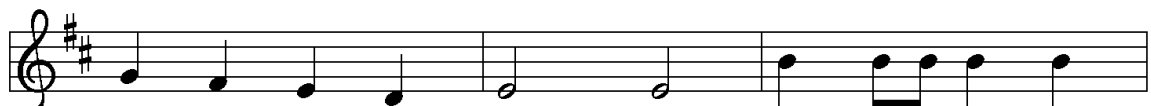
ELW Setting 6



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Holy and immortal God, with you we never lose heart,
even as we pray as we are taught,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
We come to eat this meal of gladness.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ELW Setting 6

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd
ACS 954

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

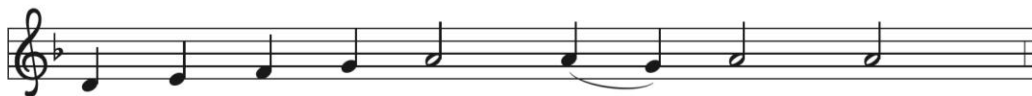
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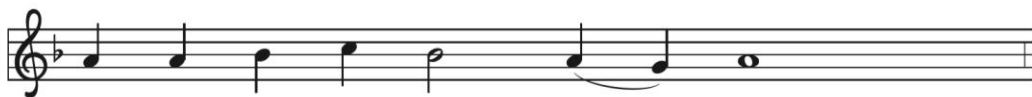
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side.
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



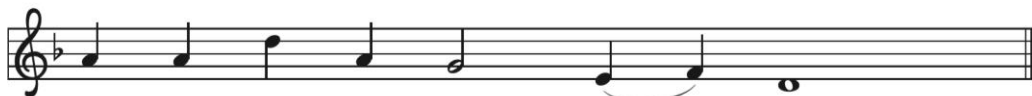
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Joyful is the Dark

ACS 1096



1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,
 2 Joy - ful is the dark, Spir - it of the deep,
 3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;
 4 Joy - ful is the dark, cool - ness of the tomb,
 5 Joy - ful is the dark, depth of love di - vine,



roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:
 wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,
 an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,
 wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;
 roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,



maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,
 nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:
 ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.



Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.
 swoop - ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.
 hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.
 dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: LINDNER, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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Music © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

After all have returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

ELW 318

Found on p. 18

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Variations on Deo Gracias”

arr. David Lasky

This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him!

Luke 9:35

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Victoria Kenyon
Lector:	Mary Beth Bergstrom
Bread Provider:	Heidi Burch
Altar Guild:	Linda Radwick
Flower Guild:	Cheri Simons



The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God in thanksgiving for the life of Pastor Bill Zimmerman and his service to the Lord.



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Ash Wednesday

March 5—12 Noon & 7 PM
Services of Holy Communion
with the Imposition of Ashes

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2025

ASSISTING MINISTER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

After worship today, Sunday, March 2, there will be a gathering of those who currently serve as Assisting Ministers and any folks who would like to join this ministry. Together, we'll review the work of leading worship and make sure everyone who takes on this responsibility is comfortable with their work. Please speak with Pastor Cris if you'd like to hear more about this important opportunity to support the worship life of St. Paul's.

ADULT FORUM

Last year, we experimented with a series of Adult Forums led by Pastor Barbara around the Lenten Gospel lessons. It went so well, we decided to do it again this year only with a new instructor, Pastor Cris! Join in next Sunday as we explore the Gospel lessons that lead up to the Passion of Jesus. We start at 8:30 Sunday mornings in the Blue Room.

MARCH OWLS OUTING

Join the Older Wiser LutheranS on Friday, March 7, at 9:30 AM as we explore the world of Verse Immersive, the only holographic theater of its kind. The experience uses augmented reality headsets. Our multi-pass tickets will include two thirty-minute experiences with a thirty-minute rest break between events. A late lunch will be on your own at the Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant. Contact Linda at 302-738-5491 or lgrund923@gmail.com with questions.

BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please plan to join us on Wednesday, March 12, at 7 PM at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation. Our topic for this month will be "Ethical Considerations in Healthcare Decisions".

HOLY HIKE

Our next Holy Hike will be Sunday, March 23, as we hike the James Hall Trail, 15 Innovation Way, Newark. This flat, paved trail is 3.6 miles out and back. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at rschock324@gmail.com.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

Upcoming Books:

- March 26 "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt
- April 23 "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks

APRIL OWLS OUTING

Come join the OWLS on Sunday, April 6, for an outing to see the comedy/drama "Steel Magnolias", performed by Newark's own Chapel Street Players.

We'll enjoy the 2 PM matinee in their new theater, then will head to Skipjack Restaurant for dinner. Tickets are priced at \$20 (dinner on your own). This matinee performance is popular, so please reserve your ticket with Nancy Lomax ASAP, but no later than today, Sunday, March 2. (contact for Nancy: N455LOM@verizon.net or 610-357-4065).

Also, please let Nancy know if you want to carpool from the church parking lot. The new Chapel Street Theater is at 643 Creek View Road in Newark.

SAINTLY SENIOR SPRING SPECIAL

Our support of our homebound members has been growing over the last few years thanks to your generous support and participation. We are currently maintaining an outreach to 18 seniors. On March 16, join us right after church as we put together some beautiful spring flowers in pretty vases to deliver to our seniors along with some yummy chocolates. We are also seeking **monetary contributions** to support this effort - please see Ellen Garrison with your check or cash donation. We are also looking for a few more **volunteers to visit** our seniors. Please let coordinator Linda Grund know if you are available to do so on March 16 or a day or two after that.



Our Lenten theme is an invitation – into a radically different Lent, into a full life – as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, let us trust – fully – that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 5, 2025

With all that you are

12 Noon Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

7PM Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes – Live Streamed

As we begin our Lenten journey, we're invited to come fully as we are. The prophet Joel proclaims, "return to God with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning" (Joel 2:12). Your brokenness, joy, gifts, and doubts all belong to God. God wants you, authentically. God wants you, stripped down and vulnerable. You are enough. Come as you are, with all that you are.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, March 9, 2025

Even in the desert

10AM Service of Holy Communion – Live Streamed

Even in the desert, Jesus expands our definitions of a full life. It's not the life the Tempter presents: a life defined by excess power, control, or reign. Excess is not abundance, but there is more. There is a fuller life we are called to live. Even in the midst of struggle, oppressive forces, hardship, and grief – God's promises spill over, like the bounty of the first fruits from the ground. Even in the desert, you are called to the riverside to be washed by grace.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, March 16, 2025

Under God's wing

10AM Service of Holy Communion – Live Streamed

God is our refuge. There is nothing that can separate you from God, or could keep God from gathering you in, protecting you fiercely. Jesus' lament for Jerusalem is surprising given how he is treated by Jerusalem. And yet, no matter how much we try to separate ourselves from God, God will run to protect us. God's love for us is fuller than we can imagine.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, March 23, 2025

You are worthy

10AM Service of Holy Communion – Live Streamed

Like the fig tree, you are worthy. You're not a lost cause. You're not a waste of resources. You deserve to be nurtured. Your fruit will come. Like the gardener, you are invited to see others with audacious hope and budding potential. The lesson of the fig tree invites us to unpack the source of our worth in a system and society that often measures worthiness by commerce, production, output, success, status, achievement, ethnicity, and/or gender identity. We might ask, "Can the fig tree have worth even if it never produces any figs?" What does that mean for us if the answer is "yes"?

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, March 30, 2025

Prodigal grace

10AM Service of Holy Communion – Live Streamed

The word "prodigal" is commonly used to describe the son who squanders his inheritance. Yet, this parable invites us to consider how God's grace is also prodigal – extravagant, lavish, illogical. This parable disrupts and expands our definitions of grace. Once again, grace is not earned. After wasting his resources, the younger son becomes destitute and returns home to his father, saying, "I am no longer worthy." His father, instead, greets him with a celebration and the fatted calf. The older son, in contrast, has done everything "right" – he's tried to perform, work hard, check all the boxes – but he forgets how to celebrate. How might you receive and extend prodigal grace?

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, April 6, 2025

Brazen acts of beauty

10AM Service of Holy Communion – Live Streamed

God is brazen in turning tears into joy. Not so long after their brother, Lazarus, dies and is raised from the dead, Mary and Martha joyfully welcome Jesus into their home. Mary pours out the fragrant perfume (perhaps originally intended to anoint her brother's body after death) and it fills the whole room. This is a brazen act of beauty. Beauty is resistance to death; beauty is an act of love. Her anointing of Jesus' feet is also a public act of worship. Her faith does not hide; it is not frugal. It is embodied, broken open, and poured out. This isn't a frugal faith – it is an abundant, extravagant faith. Mary's act is also risky – she puts her full body into it, sort of like a protest. She exhibits a shameless and brazen faith.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



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Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at

10 AM. Late submissions will be shared

the following week. Please send articles to

the church office at office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

